



NOAA Restoration Center

Grassy Creek Fish Passage Restoration

Project Description

The objective of this project was to improve salmon and steelhead access into a baffled concrete flat bottom culvert through the construction of a series of two back flood weirs in Grassy Creek.

Project Nickname Grassy Creek Fish Passage (RC-99)
Location McKinleyville, Humboldt County, CA, 95519 SWR
Program Community-based Restoration **Congressional District** MA 2
Lat, Long Coordinates -124.0322, 40.9215 **Land Ownership** Private
Implementation Start Date 08-SEP-00 **Implementation End Date** 20-OCT-00
River Basin Mad River **HUC**
Geographic Identifier Mad River **USGS Topo Quad** Arcata North
Project Status Implementation Complete **Project Type** Restoration
Project Status Description project is passing fish, but culvert retrofit is rescouring so structure will eventually need to be replaced with a bridge
Landmark Culvert under Fieldbrook Road
Number of Volunteers 4 **Volunteer Hours** 20

Volunteer Description

Proposed Project? **Project Closed?** Y **FY Completed** 2000

Habitat Information

Type	Acres Created	Acres Re-established	Acres Rehabilitated	Acres Enhanced	Acres Protected	Stream Miles	# Plants/Animals
stream/river channel						.5	

Species Information

Commonname	Genus	Species	Population Name	NMFS Status	Species Type
Salmon, chinook	<i>Oncorhynchus</i>	<i>tshawytscha</i>	California Coastal	Threatened	animal
Salmon, coho	<i>Oncorhynchus</i>	<i>kisutch</i>	Southern Oregon-Northern Californ	Threatened	animal
Trout, steelhead	<i>Oncorhynchus</i>	<i>mykiss</i>	Northern California	Candidate	animal
Trout, cutthroat	<i>Oncorhynchus</i>	<i>clarki</i>	?	?	animal

Partners

Simpson Resource Company
 California Department of Fish and Game

Restoration Techniques

in-stream placement of large woody debris/ structure
 weir construction

Contacts

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NOAA

NOAA Involvement

source of funding

Monitoring Information

Characteristic	Type
Finfish utilization	Functional

Additional Info

Photographic documentation will be performed during all phases of the project.

Funding Information

Funding Mechanism	FY Awarded	NOAA Contribution	Partnership Contribution	Total Partnership Contribution
NOAA Restoration Center	1999	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
TOTALS		\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000

Other Non-Federal \$ **Other Federal \$** **Total Project Cost**

Funding Recipient Coastal Stream Restoration

Funding Comments**Project Abstract**

Grassy Creek is a second order stream with approximately 1,300 acres of drainage area, and is a major tributary to Lindsay Creek. Lindsay Creek flows through the Fieldbrook valley and into the Mad River in Humboldt County, California. Grassy Creek historically has supported coho salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout. Lindsay Creek has historically been, and currently is considered to be the major coho producing tributary to the Mad River. The objective of this project is to do an appropriate job of constructing the needed backflood weirs, which will ensure easy access throughout one of Lindsay Creeks main tributaries.

A concrete flat bottom culvert existed under the fieldbrook road, approximately 1.5 miles upstream of Grassy Creek's confluence to Lindsay Creek. Approximately 0.5 miles of habitat existed upstream of the culvert, which was at least a temporary barrier. Barriers that may be only partial obstructions at certain flows can be a serious problem. Migrating salmonids living off body reserves have limited amounts of energy to complete their spawning cycle and the clearance of partial barriers may require excessive amounts of energy. Temporary and partial barriers are also harmful to migrating adults by causing physical damage on missed attempts and exposing fish to natural predators and poachers.

Active involvement and contributions from the community were an integral part of this project. The boulders were donated by Simpson Timber Company, who owns timberland property within the Lindsay Creek Watershed. The original longitudinal profile was completed at no cost by an Americorps Intern through the Forest Service. The landowner provided access to complete the project, as well as donating the large log places for bank protection. The project has been successful at passing fish to date.